

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-61 (Canceled).

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): A tandem image forming device comprising:

an intermediate image transfer body implemented as an inclined belt;

a plurality of image forming sections arranged side by side and along the intermediate image transfer body, and each comprising a developing device and a cleaning device arranged around an image carrier; and

at least one of nearby ones of said plurality of image forming sections having said cleaning device thereof positioned ~~above~~ overhanging at least a portion of said developing device of ~~other~~ a neighboring one of said image forming sections.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): A method of arranging a plurality of image forming sections, each of which comprises a developing device and a cleaning device arranged around an image carrier, comprising:

implementing an intermediate image transfer body as an inclined belt;

arranging the plurality of image forming sections side by side in a tandem image forming device and along the intermediate image transfer body; and

positioning the cleaning device of one of the image forming sections to overhang a part of ~~above~~ the developing device of ~~other~~ another one of the image forming sections ~~in one of nearby ones of said plurality of image forming sections.~~

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an intermediate image transfer body implemented as an inclined belt;
process cartridges arranged along the intermediate image transfer body;
each of said process cartridges having a developing device and a cleaning device; and
said developing device arranged above said cleaning device.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:

a fixing device arranged in a space of the image forming apparatus caused by the inclination of the belt.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, wherein said fixing device comprises an endless belt and is configured to fix a toner image formed on a recording medium.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, wherein said inclined belt comprises an elastic layer and a smooth coating layer covering a surface of said elastic layer.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 67, wherein said elastic layer is not flexible in a circumferential direction of said intermediate image transfer

body, but is elastic at at least a surface thereof and subjected to a pressure by secondary transfer.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, wherein said developing device comprises an agitating section and a developing section,

said agitating section being positioned at a lower level than the developing section with said cleaning device overlying said agitating section.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, wherein said cleaning device comprises a cleaning blade and a fur brush.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 70, wherein said cleaning device further comprises an electric field roller configured to apply a bias to said fur brush.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections distributed above and below said intermediate image transfer body.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 72, wherein said image forming sections each further comprises a primary image transfer device, a charger, and a drum.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:

a controller configured to output an emergency stop command when an error occurs.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 64, further comprising:

a sensor located on a sheet conveyance path and configured to sense a leading edge of a recording medium; and

a registration roller pair preceding an image transfer position configured to correct a skew of the recording medium.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:

a sensor located on a sheet conveyance path and configured to sense a leading edge of a recording medium fed by a feeding operation, which occurs at a preselected interval; and

a registration roller pair preceding an image transfer position and configured to correct a skew of the recording medium.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:

a turning device configured to turn a recording medium in order to form a toner image on both sides of said recording medium.

Claim 78 (Currently Amended): A process cartridge removably mounted on an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a developing device;
a cleaning device; and

said developing device being disposed above said cleaning device when said process cartridge is mounted on the image forming apparatus,

wherein said developing device comprises an agitating section and a developing section,

said agitating section being positioned at a lower level than the developing section with said cleaning device overlying said agitating section.

Claim 79 (Canceled)

Claim 80 (Previously Presented): The cartridge as claimed in Claim 78, wherein said cleaning device comprises a cleaning blade and a fur brush.

Claim 81 (Previously Presented): The cartridge as claimed in Claim 80, wherein said cleaning device further comprises an electric field roller configured to apply a bias to said fur brush.

Claim 82 (New): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a transfer body implemented as an inclined belt;
process cartridges arranged along the transfer body;
each of said process cartridges having a developing device and a cleaning device; and
said developing device arranged above said cleaning device.

Claim 83 (New): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a transfer body implemented as an inclined belt;

plural developing devices arranged along the transfer body; and

plural cleaning devices arranged along the transfer body,

wherein at least a part of one of said plural developing devices is arranged above an adjacent one of said cleaning devices.